CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A policy management tool, comprising:

2   dynamic network information; and

3   a policy manager coupled to the model to manage deployment of at least

4   one policy to a set of devices in a network based on the dynamic network information.

1   2.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to restrict

2   certain types of traffic at multiple points within the network via a topology-based

3   analysis of the network.

1   3.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to queue,

2   buffer, or prioritize certain types of traffic at multiple points within the network based

3   on an analysis of traffic found on various portions of the network.

1   4.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to prioritize

2   traffic, wherein the policy automatically selects the prioritization mechanism based on

3   the protocol and/or media the traffic traverses.

1   5.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to monitor

2   response time of content transfer between one or more primary servers and a device in

3   the network and replicate content of the primary servers to at least one other server

4   when the content response time of a primary server exceeds a predetermined metric.

1   6   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to monitor

2   the performance of one or more primary servers and replicate content of the primary

3   servers to at least one other server when the performance metrics of a primary server

4   exceed a predetermined value.

1   7.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to monitor

2   the health of one or more primary servers in the network, to replicate content of the

3   primary servers to at least one other server when a primary server experiences a fault,

4   and to configure the other server to emulate the primary server.

1   8.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager creates access control lists to

2   control traffic through edge devices in the network based on a topology analysis of the

3   network.

1   9.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the dynamic network information comprises a

2   network topology, network statistical information, or network traffic information.

1   10.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to replicate

2   content of a first device to a second device when the content response time of the first

3   device exceeds a predetermined metric.

1   11   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   selectively configure a set of devices based on an analysis of the traffic processed by

3   the set of devices.

1   12.   The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to replicate

2   content of a first device to a second device when the first device experiences a fault

3   and to configure the second device to emulate the first device.

1   13.   A method, comprising:

2   applying dynamic network information to a policy manager; and

3   mapping a policy to a set of devices in the network based on the

4   dynamic network information.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   restrict certain types of traffic at multiple points within the network via a topology-

3   based analysis of the network.

1   15.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   queue traffic in devices in the network based on priority.

1   16.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   buffer traffic in devices in the network based on priority.

1   17.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   prioritize traffic in the network based on type of traffic.

1   18.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   monitor response time of content transfer between one or more primary servers and a

3   device in the network and replicate content of the primary servers to at least one other

4   server when the content response time of a primary server exceeds a predetermined

5   metric.

1   19.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   monitor the performance of one or more primary servers and replicate content of the

3   primary servers to at least one other server when the performance metrics of a primary

4   server exceed a predetermined value or to monitor the performance of one or more

5   primary servers and replicate content of the primary servers to at least one other server

6   when the performance metrics of a primary server exceed a predetermined value.

1   20.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises an access

2   control list to control traffic through edge devices in the network.

1   21.   The method of claim 13 wherein the dynamic network information comprises a

2   network topology, network statistical information, or network traffic information.

1   22.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   replicate content of a first device to a second device when the content response time of

3   the first device exceeds a predetermined metric.

1   23   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   selectively configure a set of devices based on traffic types to the set of devices.

1   24.   The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to

2   replicate content of a first device to a second device when the first device experiences

3   a fault and to configure the second device to emulate the first device.

1   25.   An apparatus, comprising:

2   a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a

3   processor to:

4   apply dynamic network information to a policy manager; and

5   map a policy to a set of devices in the network based on the topology of

6   the network.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the

2   processor to apply a policy to restrict certain types of traffic at multiple points within

3   the network via a topology-based analysis of the network.

1   27.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the

2   processor to apply a policy to queue traffic in devices in the network based on priority.

1   28.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the

2   processor to apply a policy to tag or prioritize traffic in the network based on type of

3   traffic.

1   29.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the

2   processor to apply a policy to response time of content transfer between one or more

3   primary servers and a device in the network and replicate content of the primary

4   servers to at least one other server when the content response time of a primary server

5   exceeds a predetermined metric.

1   30.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the policy manager further comprises a

2   policy to monitor the performance of one or more primary servers and replicate

3   content of the primary servers to at least one other server when the performance

4   metrics of a primary server exceed a predetermined value or to monitor the

5   performance of one or more primary servers and replicate content of the primary

6   servers to at least one other server when the performance metrics of a primary server

7   exceed a predetermined value.